



First Grade News

Reading - We began a story that we will finish next week called, "Where Do Animals Live". This was a non-fiction story about the different places that animals live. We discussed animals that live in trees, ponds and on the ground. We also learned that non-fiction books usually have a table of contents at the beginning of the story and facts that we can prove either by the pictures or other sources. Finally we discussed that when we read non-fiction stories there is a lot of information that the book is trying to convey and we need to read it slowly to understand what is happening in the story. Please ask your child about our story and maybe they can tell you what animals live in trees, in a pond, or on the ground.

Phonics - The students were introduced to three new sounds this week, "c", "u", and "g". First they had to listen to me say the word slowly and tell me what words I was saying. Next I said the word and they had to say it slowly. I introduced three new "high frequency" words, "was", "who" and "good" that the students had to say by sight. Each lesson we will be adding more words that they must recognize. Finally I used the new sounds to make some short "u" words, "cub", "mud", and "sun". Please ask your child about these sounds and words.

Writing - We are continuing to learn how to write "Small Moment" stories. This week we discussed "Zooming In". This means that the students had to think about the topic for their story and then focus on one little part of that topic to write about. We related it to a whole watermelon, but inside you will find a tiny seed. The students need to write about the "seed" instead of the whole watermelon. Next we discussed planning their stories using a partner. This way the students, as they share, are able to use another student to help them. Finally, we discussed how to read our stories. The students had to read their stories the same way that you would read a story from a book. Please ask your child about these topics and what they chose to write their story about.

Math - This week we began Chapter 3. In this chapter the students will get an introduction into telling time and counting money. The students began by telling time using on-the-hour times. They had to read an analog clock and then create their own clock. Then they practiced counting money. The students had to trade five pennies for a nickel and finally show the different ways that you can make 20 cents using pennies, nickels, and dimes. Please put a few pennies and maybe a nickel in front of your child and see if they can count the money. Maybe they can even keep it if they can count it. We also practiced addition strategies. We practiced "doubles" (5+5) and "doubles + 1" (5+6). We will continue to learn new strategies to help us complete addition faster. Please ask your child about telling time and counting the money

Important Notes

- If you can make it, please come to the Halloween party this Friday, October 24th. I hope to see you all there.
- Cold season is coming fast. If you wouldn't mind, can you please donate a box or two of Kleenex to the class? We would really appreciate it!
- Homework has started. Please have your child complete and return their homework the following day. These activities practice the concepts that we have learned in the classroom.
- You should have received a list of the first grade sight words. Please practice these words on a weekly basis. By the end of first grade they have to say all of the words quickly. A couple of ideas to practice these words are if you make some words and play "Bingo" or make them into a "Memory" game. The students think they are playing a game and not just practicing words.
- Please collect Box Tops For Education and send them in. This is a great way to make money for the school. Our class has sent the PTA several baggies full so far. Thank you to all of the families that have already sent some in.
- Thank You to all of the families that are sending their child in with a healthy snack. If they bring in cookies, cakes, or donuts, I am not allowed to let them eat it. It is too much sugar and some students have a hard time concentrating after eating a sugary snack.
- Please remember to have your child wear sneakers on "Gym" days. It is important that your child wears sneakers so they can participate in the fun. If you need another copy of the letters day calendar please see us or the main office.
- If you need to speak to us, before or after school is a convenient time. You can also e-mail us at b59gcara@manchesterct.gov, b47jmedy@manchesterct.gov, and b57dwats@manchesterct.gov or send in a note with your child and we will respond to you as quickly as we can.

Important Dates to Remember:

- October 24th: Halloween Party
- November 4th: District PD (No School for students-Election Day)
- November 5th: PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- November 10th: Project Playground PJ Day
- November 11th: No School-Veteran's Day
- November 13th: World Kindness Day
- November 14th: School Store
- November 21st: Turkey Bingo
- November 26th: $\frac{1}{2}$ Day 1:17 Dismissal
- November 27th & 28th: No School-Thanksgiving Recess

Thank You,
Mr. Carabillo
Mrs. Medynski
Mrs. Watson